

**Kerri Colombo**  
**29 Huckleberry Hill Road**  
**Brookfield, CT 06804**

March 9, 2022

Re: SB284 - Support

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Kerri Colombo, from Brookfield, CT. I'm an active member of the community and a staunch advocate for healthcare for all.

Can you imagine aging out of healthcare at age 9? Nine - on the cusp of puberty, hormones, physical and emotional growth, social and mental health challenges. Now is the time to expand access to HUSKY healthcare for ALL ages to address the multitude of physical and mental health needs of our CT residents.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all people of any age or immigration status, including parents and adults.

We all know it is best practice to address health issues as they arise, yet this is often avoided because of cost. The result is the need to seek emergency services to address compounded health issues. Emergency services end up costing more financially, physically and personally.

Our family was blessed with HUSKY as a primary and later as a secondary insurance during this pandemic due to the Federal Health Emergency Declaration. Please continue this allowance.

HUSKY has enabled us to seek health services for our children that we likely would have avoided due to the cost, in spite of the clear benefits of the interventions. If our HUSKY is canceled, we will have to make difficult decisions about which healthcare interventions we will no longer be able to give our children.

The State of Connecticut must create a long term plan to expand HUSKY access to all CT residents, including our neighbors in the immigrant community. Children deserve a healthy start in life. They also deserve healthy parents who aren't saddled with the burden and worry of wondering how they will pay for medical care for themselves or their children. If parents and caregivers have access to healthcare, they are more likely to seek healthcare for their children. If one person suffers, we all suffer.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to HUSKY for all CT residents regardless of age or immigration status.

Thank you for your attention to this life changing matter,

Kerri Colombo